

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CONAKR 02181 280942Z

41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

XMB-02 IGA-02 /101 W
----- 115488

R 280905Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2446

C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 2181

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EINV, BEVP, GV, US

SUBJECT: SOGUIP/BUTTES RESOURCES INTERNATIONAL

1. FRANK WALSH OF BUTTES TOLD EMBASSY OCTOBER 27
THAT ALTHOUGH HE WAS BREATHING A BIT EASIER AS A RESULT
OF BUTTES' TWO-YEAR CONTRACT EXTENSION (CONAKRY 1617),
HE FELT THAT IF DRILLING DID NOT BEGIN EARLY IN 1977
GOG WOULD AGAIN RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT PROJECT.

2. WALSH SAID ARRANGEMENTS MIGHT BE MADE FOR
DRILLING SHIP "PELICAN" TO COME TO GUINEA FROM NEWFOUND-
LAND, AND ARRIVAL POSSIBLY COULD BE AS EARLY AS LATE
NOVEMBER. DRILLING OF SINGLE EXPLORATORY HOLE WOULD TAKE
45 DAYS.

3. WALSH DESCRIBED BUTTES' ONGOING SEARCH FOR
ADEQUATE FINANCING IN RELATIVELY MORE HOPEFUL TERMS
THAN USUAL. ALTHOUGH BUTTES HAS BEEN REBUFFED BY FRENCH
COMPANY ELF-AQUITAINE SEVERAL TIMES, WALSH WAS TOLD
IN PARIS LAST WEEK THAT COMPANY NOW WISHES NEGOTIATE.
HE ALSO HELD OUT POSSIBILITY THAT CANADIAN COMPANY COULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CONAKR 02181 280942Z

BE INDUCED TO PARTICIPATE WITH TOKEN INVESTMENT IN

ORDER FURTHER MULTI-NATIONALIZE ENTERPRISE AND FIND MORE LEGITIMACY IN GUINEAN EYES. WALSH BELIEVED THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR LEWIN HAD WEIGHED IN WITH AQUITAINE FAVORING FRENCH PARTICIPATION, AND THIS MAY ACCOUNT FOR POSSIBLE CHANGE OF HEART. WALSH ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS A LONG WAY FROM A DEFINITE COMMITMENT WITH FRENCH.

4. COMMENT. WALSH'S ESTIMATE OF DRILLING DATE SHOULD BE SET AGAINST TWO-YEAR HISTORY OF EVAPORATING DEADLINES AND FINANCING HEADACHES. HOWEVER, FOR MOMENT IT DOES APPEAR BUTTES MAY ENJOY RESPITE FROM SEVERE GOG PRESSURES PENDING START-UP.
HARROP

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INVESTMENT CLIMATE, EXPLORATORY DRILLING, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CONAKR02181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760402-0580
From: CONAKRY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761010/aaaaaigp.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 JUN 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <16 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOGUIP/BUTTES RESOURCES INTERNATIONAL
TAGS: ENRG, EINV, BEXP, GV, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006